ASHTON-UPON-MERSEY URBAN AUTHORITY.

Year 1910.

Medical Officer of Health, CHARLES J. RENSHAW, M.D.

Population Census 1901 - 5,563.

Estimated population 1910 - 6,500.

Area in acres - 1,622.

Death rate per 1,000 living persons 10.4.

Death rate from seven principal zymotic diseases 1.3

Death under one year by 1,000 births 60.

Birth rate 25.4.

The health of Ashton-upon-Mersey for the past year has been good.

There have been from all causes, both of the inhabitants in this neighbourhood and of those belonging here who have died in other districts 68, that gives a death rate of 10.4 per 1,000 persons.

There has been no epidemic during the past year. We have occasionally had to deal with zymotic diseases as for instance, measles, whooping cough and scarlet fever and diphtheria; of these we have had

Whooping cough	41 cases
Diphtheria	9 cases
Erysipelas	6 cases
Scarlet fever	48 cases
Measles	35 cases

but not of sufficient numbers of cases at one time to

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Whooping cough	41 cases
Diphtheria	9 cases
Erysipelas	8 cases
Scarlet fever	48 cases
Measles	38 cases

but not of sufficient numbers of cases at one time to

require the closing of any of the schools; there has been no malign influence during the past year to cause disease

A. Cows have not been tried for tuberculosis, there has been no suspicions of such disease. Two cows have died of anthrax according to certification (the carcases have been taken charge of by the police, they were cremated, the shippon carefully disinfected and cleaned).

B. There were complaints of smells from the north east side of the district; this was enquired into, suggestions made and carried out. No special illness seems to have been caused by the smell.

C. See separate statement at the end.

D. There are 1 Dairy, 9 Cowsheds, 12 Milkshops. 22 inspections have been made, all has been found according to the regulations under the Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops order as to lighting, ventilation and cleanliness.

E. No complaints have been made about food, all seen has been good.

F. The water supply is from the North Cheshire Water Co., is constant and is of very good quality and of sufficient quantity, the Schools are well supplied. Some outlying farms are supplied by wells, the water is good and the springs in the sand belt.

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G. The river Mersey bounds the north eastern side of the districts it drains several towns in its course but the sewage is purified before entering the river.

H. The drainage of the district is good and the sewage empties itself into sedimentary banks and then on to land before draining into the Mersey. A few outlying farms drain into cesspools which are ventilated. The sewage works were extended during the past year.

I. Middan, Privies, dry ash pits, pail closets, are attended to monthly, dustbins being emptied fortnightly, cesspools are not emptied by the Council.

K. No steps at present have been taken under Article V. of the Housing regulation of 1910 but there has been a general examination of the whole neighbourhood many times and that is always going on.

L. Statements of vital statistics of the district accompany this paper, also tabular statements.

M. The Midwives have been supervised, Medical help has been called in by them fifteen times. No case attended by the midwives has terminated fatally and there has been no case of puerperal fever.

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There have been 54 new houses built.

Two cases of overcrowding reported and have been attended to.

The health of the community has been very good there has been no case of enteric, and very little diarrhoea has been reported; very few deaths from tuberculosis have occurred and only 10 deaths of children under 12 months have been registered. I have no doubt the advice given at Mothers' meetings has been useful in preventing early death. The instructions as to feeding the young given by the district nurses and to a large extent the greater care taken of children suffering from measles and whooping cough has had excellent results.

During the past year plans have been approved by the Council for 69 houses, out of which 18 have been completed.

The total number of houses certified for habitation was 54.

There are 17 houses now nearing completion.

The sanitary improvements carried out to various houses in the district are as follows:-

Privies converted into W.C's.	7
Houses redrained	6
Drains removed out of cellars	4
Stopped up drains attended to	3
Privies rebuilt	3

Factory and Workshop Act 1901. With one exception nothing has been found to complain of during the past year.

The Slaughterhouses continue to be kept in a satisfactory manner, there is no one present officially when slaughtering is being done.